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We want to take this down.
Let Mrs. Lincoln get on. Go ahead Adlai.

First we read the report to him. He had not received it. I said to him that we should button this thing up quickly and to avoid the danger of other alternative. I suggested that he, U Thant, send messages to Russia, to Cuba, to the United States at once; that he proposes to proceed as follows: (on the assumption that steps had already been taken by the USSR and Cuba)

1. To suspend construction of the bases and the assembly of aircraft.
2. Make all missiles inoperative.
3. And on this understanding he is prepared to go to Cuba bringing with him General Rickey and others to set up:
 - a. Means of verification of (1) and (2) above.
 - b. The means of verification of the final dismantling.
 - c. To discuss with Cuba the assurances that they are aware of this.

I went on to say to him that we thought it better for him to send such a message announcing what he was going to ask rather than writing him, which would save messages going back and forth. I think he adopted this idea, but he would like very much after he sends the message to have some sort of a reply to him from President Kennedy to go down there on Tuesday.

He can't do it tomorrow?

No, the reasons for all that is as follows:

1. He says if I go on Tuesday I can be at work in Havana by 11:00 o'clock in the morning. I want to take with me a large party leaving them behind me when I return one day later. He proposes to charter a plane from some third country, probably Canadian airforce - not a U. S. plane. He will include in his letter to Castro that there will be no demonstrations, no receptions and this is wholly a private visit. He expects to take with him at least ten people from the UN staff and from the special conferences and from the missions here in New York and among others he mentioned Sweden and apparently there is a man on the Ethiopian staff here who has had some experience at Fort Knox. Then he says once I arrive they won't say No to the Secretary General. I will ask my staff to start the inspection at once pm on Tuesday. The sites to be inspected will be furnished today by the United States by their latest photographs. He says that once he gets there he is confident everything will be open to inspection. He is also confident now

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now that the USSR will not back down, by the time he gets there on Tuesday. Finally he agreed he would send copies of the three letters that he is going to send to Russia, to Cuba and to the United States to us before he sends them so that we can have an opportunity to make suggestions if we should so desire. He also said that the best news was the arrival of Konitsau - I have a long and amusing story to tell you about that at some later time.

He also said that representatives of the following countries could perhaps follow in a few days:

Ethiopia
Nigeria
Ghana
Sweden
UAR
Mexico
Switzerland

He thought all of them would be willing to go, with the exception of Nigeria.

He also discussed the possibility of getting a secure line from Havana.

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